



**Approved**

# MEETING MINUTES

## LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AUTHORITY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 4, 2014

Grace E. Simons Lodge

1025 Elysian Park Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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#### **Board Members Present:**

**Bill Walker**, Fire Chief, representing the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association

**Mark R. Alexander**, City Manager, City of La Cañada Flintridge, representing the Contract Cities Association

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#### **Representatives For Board Members Present:**

**Brence Culp**, representing Interim CEO, County of Los Angeles

**Patty Huber**, representing Miguel Santana, for CAO, City of Los Angeles

**Graham Everett**, representing Ralph M. Terrazas, for the City of Los Angeles Fire Department

**Sandy Jo MacArthur**, representing Charles "Charlie" L. Beck, Vice Chair, for the City of Los Angeles Police Department

**Matias Farfan**, representing Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst, City of Los Angeles

**Chris Bundesen**, representing Daryl L. Osby, Los Angeles County Fire Department

**Karolyn Fruhwirth**, representing Cathy Chidester, EMS Agency, County of Los Angeles

**Jose Santome**, representing Steven K. Zipperman, Los Angeles School Police Department

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#### **Officers Present:**

**Pat Mallon**, LA-RICS Executive Director

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#### **Absent:**

**Jim McDonnell**, Sheriff, County of Los Angeles

**Scott Pickwith**, Chief, representing the Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association

**Ron Iizuka**, Police Captain, City of Culver City, representing At Large Seat

**Kim Raney**, Police Chief, City of Covina, representing At Large Seat

**Vacant**, representing At Large Seat

**Vacant**, representing At Large Seat

**John Naimo**, Auditor-Controller, County of Los Angeles

**Joseph Kelly**, Interim Treasurer and Tax Collector, County of Los Angeles



**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ANNOUNCE QUORUM – Roll Call**

Interim Chair Culp made an acknowledgement that a quorum was present.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1)**

1. November 13, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes.

Interim Chair Culp asked for a motion to approve, Alternate Board Member Jose Santome motioned first, seconded by Alternate Board Member MacArthur. The Board's consensus was unanimous.

Ayes 10: Brence, Walker, Alexander, Huber, Everett, MacArthur, Farfan, Bundesen, Fruhwirth and Santome

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR – (None)**

**V. REPORTS (1-4)**

2. Finance Committee Report – No Report
3. Director's Report – Pat Mallon

Executive Director Pat Mallon provided an update on the Funding Plan. As directed by your Board at your last meeting, I have contacted each of the 10 cities that have "Opted-Out" of the LA-RICS Authority. To date, no city has requested reinstatement to membership. One has requested written information relative to that potential. That information has been provided to Azusa. One of the contract cities responded by stating that their city contracts for all services from law enforcement to fire to public works. All communications required within the city are done via commercial cellular providers and there is no need for their participation in the Authority. He added that many of the neighboring contract cities are considering the same option. Cities located in the South Bay area responded that they are part of the South Bay Regional Communication Center, which supplies them with Land Mobile Radio services. Although the cities did receive information relative to the extended Opt-Out period, most Chiefs of Police are reportedly resolved to continue with the RCC and will not participate in LA-RICS. Calls to other cities have gone unreturned. As previously reported, the City of El Segundo City Council approved their Opt-Out in August. We received formal notice of that action this week.



In regards to the NTIA site status, we have 5 members of the Federal BTOP team who are visiting LA-RICS for a project update. On December 3, 2014, we provided them with an overview of the project from a construction schedule and outreach perspective. Today, we will cover the financial aspects of the project. From the NTIA office, Mr. Scott Woods, Sr. Communications Program Specialist, Mr. Chris Holt, Federal Program Officer, Ms. Aimee Meacham, Federal Program Services Director, from the NOAA Office, Mr. Larry Jenkins, and Ms. Andrea Mack, Grants Management Specialist.

In regards to the LTE site status, we have 145 sites with fully executed Site Access Agreements, plus another 5 awaiting final paperwork for signature. Agenda Item No. 6 on today's agenda is presented for discussion on the status of all LTE sites.

In regards to Environmental documentation, we are continuing to submit the required packages by site to the State Historical Planning Office (SHPO). To date, we have completed the Form 620 process on 175 sites. 163 submissions have been approved with 12 pending SHPO action. Documentation to NTIA has been submitted for 13 Sites requesting exemption from the SHPO process. Documentation for 10 sites are nearing completion, 5 are ready to go this week, plus another 2 to 3 possible sites are awaiting site data from Motorola. The remainder of sites (approximately 33), including sites dropped at city requests are pending a route modification through NTIA or a Supplemental Environmental Process.

In regards to the LTE contract status, this week, 2 Notices to Proceed (NTP) were issued, one for the Redundant Core to be installed at the L.A. City Valley Dispatch Center along with associated equipment and the second for purchase of eNodeBs and site equipment for 75 additional sites. This amounts to the approval of site equipment for a total of 150 sites. The total LTE contract value stands at \$178,196,575 through Amendment No. 6. Amendment No. 6 has increased the total contract value by \$2,613,300. There has been no change to the Term of the Contract.

As previously reported, the LA County Firefighter's Union recently sent a message to their membership and to other unions objecting to the siting of cellular installations at fire stations. LA-RICS staff and our technical consultants are committed to support the outreach effort to all service unions. One such meeting is occurring at this moment with the Vernon City Fire Union. We have one other outreach meeting scheduled for tomorrow with the County Fire Union, Local 1014.

Mr. Woods from NTIA would like to provide some comments at the conclusion of this meeting during the Public Comment Period.

Interim Chair Culp asked Mr. Woods if he would like to come up now and speak.



Mr. Scott Wood stated, we have members of the Federal Team both National Telecommunications Information Administration and BTOP Office as well as from the NOAA Grants Office, also here. Our primary focus is to meet with the Authority staff, Jacobs, Motorola, and some of the stakeholders to ensure it is moving along appropriately. Also, to itemize the Federal support for this project and to let people here at ground level know they have people in Washington DC who are assisting to move this project forward. We had a detailed review of all the plans yesterday, all the Outreach, all the deployment, and technical aspects. We are very pleased with the deployment plans. With that said, there still is a lot of work that needs to be done. The number one thing is time. The award ends September 30, 2015. All the grants activity has to be completed. There remains a lot of work that needs to be done. We are happy with the results of the plans that we reviewed yesterday. We think that there is a wonderful team in place on behalf of the Authority, Jacobs, Motorola, and other staff put together and we are very happy with that. The plans are great but the plans need to be executed. We will be monitoring the results and participating in weekly calls, monthly follow-ups and this will not be the last time Federal staff will be here to monitor progress. As we move forward to the first quarter in 2015, it is important to show progress to the higher ups in Washington DC and make it easier for everyone. We must be on time and on budget. We will get more into the financial aspects and review sites that are under construction and inform Washington DC of the progress. We believe that there is a great team and that folks communicate well. I look forward to working with LA City and LA County. Thank you for allowing me to address you this morning.

Interim Chair Culp acknowledged support from our colleagues at the NTIA and NOAA Offices. Without you this project could not happen and we are well aware of our deadlines to make your job easier in Washington DC. This project is an innovative project and not everyone can see the value until it goes live. We are going forward to meet our deadlines.

Alternate Board Member MacArthur, asked that Mehrdad from the City team be included on the weekly conference calls, to allow the City to meet deadlines and to make sure we are doing everything required of us. Executive Director Mallon confirmed that City representatives were welcome to participate.

Executive Director Mallon stated that in regards to the LMR current status, there has been no change to the status of the LMR contract since the last meeting. There has been some progress with respect to the LMR project as a whole. As previously reported, we have installed LMR equipment at 3 sites for the 700 MHz system and 5 sites for the T-Band system. System optimization of these sites began on November 3, 2014, and is proceeding well and the system will be available for demonstration purposes in the near future. We are considering options relating to activating the system for public safety operations within the next few months. Pursuit of Site Access Agreements for the LMR system will begin shortly.



In referencing the LMR Environmental Process, the Jacobs Team is moving forward with assembling the EIR for the LMR project. They are completing the requisite biological and historical site assessments. We are working with FEMA to determine if categorical exclusions can be granted for certain sites.

The contract value for the LMR contract, through Amendment No. 9 which was approved by your Board at the November 13, 2014, is \$291,745,675, including 15 years of maintenance. There has been no change to the contract term.

In regards to the Election of At Large Seats, your Board approved the beginning of that process at your October meeting. Nominations Forms will be sent to all member agencies by close of business on December 4, 2014. The process calls for the submission of nominations to be complete by February 5, 2015. Ballots will be issued to member cities by March 5, 2015; final call for ballots will be at 9:00 a.m., on April 2, 2015, at your Board meeting.

4. Project Manager's Report – Pat Mallon

The Jacobs Project Management Report and Motorola Monthly Report are included in your package as Agenda Item No. 4

5. Grant Status Report – Pat Mallon

There has been no change to the grant status since your last meeting.

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS (6)**

6. Status of Site Access Agreements with Member Agencies

Executive Director Mallon stated that we need to provide Motorola with a final list of sites that need to be included. We have number of sites where the City has asked us to drop them. There are also a number of sites within Cities where we are unable to obtain a commitment. We have communicated with staff from the City of Glendale the day before yesterday and they were going to take it to the City Manager for a decision. They have five sites. The City of Hawthorne has two sites, which we must classify as very doubtful. I did have a conversation with the City Manager from Pomona. The Pomona sites are very important because of County Fire provided services. These sites are important even if the Police Departments do not want to participate. I did provide additional information to Ms. Lowry from the City of Pomona, and she going to take it to her City Council. I have not heard anything further from her. We also have some cities that are very doubtful. Redondo Beach has a couple of sites. We need to send letters to the cities to get the final list.



Interim Chair Culp, asked Executive Director Mallon when do you expect to get the final list? Executive Director Mallon replied, once we formally drop the sites we would have it by mid-next week. It really is unfortunate because when we look at the map of the coverage, we can see holes in the coverage. There are five sites in Pomona and five sites in Glendale, each of which creates a hole.

Board Member Alexander asked to clarify if it is the LTE, data only sites, but which will have voice communication. Executive Director Mallon stated yes, that is correct. Our LTE coverage is based on a standard. The standard is PDA (level worn on the hip, like a cell phone). We plan to use vehicle mounted routers with an antenna that goes on top of the police car or fire truck. To an extent, with the roof mounted equipment, we will have better coverage than the minimum standard specified.

Board Member Alexander stated that there are about six communities near La-Canada Flintridge that have made decisions to not allow LA-RICS use of their sites, which concerns me. In these instances, will you be rolling out sites on wheels? Executive Director Mallon stated that we do have two sites on wheels. If we do have a situation in La Canada Flintridge, we will roll it out and will have connection via satellite in your city even if we do not have coverage from ground installations.

Alternate Board Member Santome asked if within the scope design, if there is lack coverage, will we have a repeater system to bounce the signals off the vehicles? Instead of using the roll outs (site on wheels)?

Executive Director Mallon stated, we do have portable eNodeBs that are in a backpack that will connect via satellite. I do not know the capabilities of these packs. The sites on wheels consist of a trailer to be setup on site with up to 100 feet mast to blanket that area. As the cellular industry changes technology, we know of their micro cells that are on top of telephone poles. But that will depend on evolution of technology and dollars to bring them to the system. I do not know if any repeater type device offers improved data communications from vehicle to vehicle. We have to check on that and will get back to you next month.

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (7)**

**7. APPROVE THE 2015 SCHEDULE OF LA-RICS BOARD REGULAR MEETINGS**

It is recommended that your Board:

Approve the 2015 Schedule of LA-RICS Board Regular Meetings and Application For Use of Facilities Agreement with the City of Los Angeles for the continued



use of the Grace E. Simons Lodge for this Board's Regular Meetings, located at 1025 Elysian Park Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Attachment: Item 7

Board Member Alexander called for an amendment to change Tuesday, July 7, 2015 to Thursday, July 9, 2015. Interim Chair Culp asked for a motion to approve, Board Member Chidester motioned first, seconded by Alternate Board Member MacArthur. The Board's consensus was unanimous.

Ayes 10: Culp, Walker, Alexander, Huber, Everett, MacArthur, Farfan, Bundesen, Fruhwirth and Santome

**MOTION APPROVED.**

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS – (None)**

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (None)**

**X. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION BY THE BOARD (NONE)**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT and NEXT MEETING:**

Interim Chair Culp announced adjournment of this meeting. The Board's consensus was unanimous. The next Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 8, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., at the Grace E. Simons Lodge.